

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Applicants confirm their election of Group I, claims 1-7 and 11.

Claims 8-10 are canceled, reserving full rights to file a divisional application directed thereto.

The following art rejections were posed:

Claims 1 and 7 as anticipated by U.S. 5,118,581 Shalaby et al.

Claim 1 as anticipated by U.S. 5,633,090 Rodek et al.

Claim 1 as anticipated by U.S. 5,864,459 Lu et al.

Claims 2-6 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 7, claim 1 is canceled and claim 7 is made to depend from claims indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

Specifically, claims 2, 3 and 4 indicated to contain allowable subject matter are combined with claim 1 from which they depended. This resulted in independent claims 2, 3 and 4.

Claim 5 is combined with claim 1 in independent form as new claim 20.

Claim 6 is left to depend from claim 2, and new claim 21 is added corresponding to claims 6, but dependent from claim 20.

With respect to claim 11 and claims which contain the essential limits of claim 11 alone or with other limits (claims 15, 19 and 22), “zirconia” is changed to --zirconium-- (see the

specification at page 19, lines 15 and 17 for example), and offer the following remarks on the “coating” in claim 11.

The disclosure relevant to the term “coating” in claim 11 and other claims which contain the limits of claim 11 can be found in page 19, line 8 to page 20, line 4 and on page 24, line 2 from the bottom to page 25, line 6 (i.e., Example 2,2) Formation of surface spherical protruded layer) in the specification of the present application. Taking Example 2-2) as an example, the composition of No. 36 of Table 2 (see page 30) corresponds to the “internal sprayed coating” having the component composition (Al:40, Y: 25, Si: 35(at %)), and the protruded layer having the composition of No. 37 (see page 30) which is lower in Al and Y concentrations than those of the composition of No. 36 is “a most superficial layer”. Accordingly, with respect to claim 11 and other claims which contain the limits of claim 11, “the internal sprayed coating” is changed “an internal sprayed coating” to have proper antecedent basis.

Claim 11 is combined with claim 1 in independent form as new claim 22.

Claims corresponding to 5-7 and 11 are added as claims 12 to 15 depending from claim 3 and claims 16-19 depending from claim 4.

It is believed that Applicants have avoided all rejections and now claim only allowable subject matter.

If the Examiner would like any comments on the prior art, the same can be provided.

It is not believed that such comments are necessary, however.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10,540,839

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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